Vol. IV. Numb. 4.

THE OBSERVATOR.

The Coventry Ballad, *call'd* A Health to the *Tackers*. *Reflections on the ſame.* *On the* Cavalcade *at* Coventry, *upon the Return of their two* Tacking *Members.* *A Story how a Lady ſav'd the Liberties of that City.* *The* Tackers *Vindicated by a* Common-Councilman *at* Norwich. *The* French *King depends on the* Tacking Party. *Of the* Church-Screwers. *Of Searching a* Papiſts *Houſe for Horſes.* *A Health Drank to the* Tackers *in the* Town-Hall *of* ———. *Of the beſt method of* Electing Members *for* Parliament. *Of the* Suffolk Tackers *Preſent to Count* Tallard.

From Wednesday April the 11th, to Saturday April the 14th, 1705.

Obſ. WEll, Honeſt *Country-man*, thou talkeſt of ſome News from the Country about *Elections*; Let's hear it.

Country-m. Maſter, I'll give you ſome News firſt from *London*, by way of Introduction; here is a fine new Sing-Song Ballad, Printed in the *Diverting Poſt*, call'd, *A Health to the* Tackers, *or the* Coventry *Ballad.* It is to be ſet to Muſick by *Mijn Heer Slottenvarten*, a *Dutch Turk*, and to be carried by *Roberto Eſteven de Porco*, an *Antichriſtian Meſſenger*, to *Donna Margaritta*, an *Italian Popiſh Lady*, to be by her Sung to the *Black Jew*, at his next Conference with *Mac O Bonniclabbero Leſleio*, the *Iriſh Nonjuring Prieſt.*

Obſ. A rare thing I'll warrant it; Prithee let me hear it.

I.

HEre's a Health to the Tackers, *my Boys,*
But my A--- for the Tackers about;
May the brave Engliſh *Spirits come in,*
And the Knaves *and* Fanaticks *turn out:*
Since the Magpies of late are confounding the State,
And would put our Eſtabliſhment down;
Let us make them a Feſt, for they Sh--t in their Neſt,
And be true to the Church and the Crown.

II.

Let us chooſe ſuch Parliament Men
As have ſtuck to their Principles tight,
And would not their Country *betray,*
In the Story of Aſhby *and* White,
Who care not a T——d for a Whig *or a* L——d,
That won't ſee our Accounts *fairly ſtated,*
For C——ll *ne'er fears the* Addreſs *of thoſe Peers,*
Who the Nation *of Millions have Cheated.*

III.

The next thing adviſeable is,
Since Schiſm *ſo ſtrangely abounds,*
To Oppoſe e'very Man that's ſet up
By Diſſenters *in Corporate Towns:*
For High Church *and* Low Church, *have brought us to* no Church,
And Conſcience *ſo Bubbl'd the Nation,*
That who is not ſtill for Conformity's Bill,
Will be ſurely a R—— on Occaſion.

Country-m. I'll tell you what, Maſter, as ſoon as I can get the Tune, *Dick*, our Thraſher, ſhall ſing it to the Muſick of an old Key and pair of Tongs, and all my Swine ſhall Dance about the Yard to the *Honour* of the *Tackers*, who are juſt ſuch Headſtrong Creatures as my Hogs.

But now, Sir, I'll give you an Account from the ſame Town, as the Counterpart to the Ballad, which, in my poor Opinion, is very Chomical.

Two Eminent *Tackers* returning Home, were met upon the Road by their Party, and Uſher'd into the Town in the manner following. Two hundred and odd Foot *Tackers* March'd in the Front, then followed a *May-Pole*, with a *Flag*, which had on each ſide the Picture of a *Church*; the Enſign that carried the *Flag*, had on his Right and Left the *Blunderbuſſes* of the *Church*, viz. the *Pariſh Clarks* and *Sextons*.

Next to theſe March'd *nine Parſons*, there ſhou'd ha' been *ten* of 'em, but one being deeply engag'd ſome Nights before in Drinking the *Churches* and *Tackers* Healths, got ſo confoundedly Drunk, that he miſtook the *Marle-Pit* for the *Ale-Cellar*, tumbl'd into it, and broke his Thigh.

Next the *Parſons* March'd a whole Bevy of *Bitch Foxes*, call'd *Whores*; all of 'em *Tackers*, and *Occaſional Conformiſts* to any *Cully*: The Church *Amazon* that lead the *Whoring Band*, was call'd Captain *Kate*, a Firſt Rate Whore, who, not long ſince was put in the Stocks, and Whipp'd about the Town for her *Lewdneſs*.

Next came the *two Tackers*, follow'd by a Numerous Quantity of People, and in this manner the Cavalcade arriv'd at the Croſs; Captain *Kate* handed the chief *Tacker* up the Steps, and Preſented him with a Sprig of Gilded Roſemary, ſtuck into an Orange. After he had made as Fooliſh a Speech as could be wiſh'd upon ſo Silly an Occaſion, and the *Pariſh Clarks* had ſaid *Amen* to't, Captain *Kate* clap'd him on the Back, and ſaid, *Now, Boys, or Never, for the Church.*—— Now, Maſter, your Obſervations on this Cavalcade.

Obſ. Prithee, Man, there needs no Obſervations on a Caſe ſo plain: What ſhall I ſay to't?

1. We may hence obſerve that all the *Fools* and *Knaves*, all the *Whores*, *Rogues*, and *Nonjurant Prieſts* in the Kingdom are on the ſide of the *Tackers*.

2. That Captain *Kate*'s *Church*, and the *Tackers Church* is the ſame, and that they are Chriſtians alike.

3. That the Citizens of *Coventry* are very different from their Anceſtors, in reſpect to *Vertue* and *Modeſty*; of which I'll tell you a Story. That City, by the Miſcarriages of ſome of the Magiſtrates, had Forfeited their Charter; how to Recover their Antient Franchiſe and Immunities was very difficult; a ſtrange odd way of doing it was found out, upon theſe Terms, but for what Reaſons I have not now in my Memory, *viz. That a very Beautiful Young Lady ſhould, at Noon Day, Ride thro' the Town Stark Naked, upon a White Palfrey.* You may be ſure this was difficult to a Lady of *Vertue*, as our Women formerly were; yet ſhe being deſirous to ſave the Town Liberties agreed thereto with the Citizens, upon Condition, *That every Inhabitant, from the time ſhe began her Cavalcade to the Concluſion of it, ſhould keep within Doors, and not look out.*

The Lady Stript herſelf ſtark Naked, Mounted her Steed, perform'd her Cavalcade, ſav'd the *Liberties* of the Town; and all the way ſhe Rode ſaw not any one that look'd out but a *Baker*, who peep'd out at the Garret Window, which ſhe telling to the Inhabitants, they went immediately to the Place, Seized the Man, ſlung him

him out at the ſame Window from whence he look'd into the Street, where he was Maſh'd to Death on the Stones; and in Memory of the Action they made a Figure exactly like him, Dreſt it up in the ſame Cloaths he then had on, and plac'd it Peeping out at the ſame Window, in the Poſture the Lady then ſaw him; and there it ſtands to this very day; and I have ſeen it my ſelf ſeveral times, and it goes by the Name of the *Peeper*. And here comes the common *Engliſh* Saying, *You ſhall Pay for your Peeping*.

Country-m. Now, Maſter, I obſerve, upon this Story. 1. That it would be much for the Eaſe and Advantage of Her Majeſty and Her Good People, if all the *Tackers* in *England* were ſerv'd as the *Peeper* at *Coventry*. 2*dly*, That as the City of *Coventry* did once ſave its *Priviledge* by a *Virtuous Lady*, ſo, ſometime or other it may loſe its *Liberty* by a Pack of *Whores*. And 3*dly*. If either of the *Nine Clergymen*, mentioned in this Cavalcade, had then been Living, a Parſon would have kept Company with the *Baker*.

Obſ. Country-man you muſt have a care in your Obſervations; you are ſomething Raſh in ſerving the *Tackers* as the *Peeper* was ſerv'd.

Country-m. Maſter, they'll do worſe by us if they carry the Day. For on the 3*d*. of this Month an Honeſt Gentleman of *Bury* in *Suffolk*, being at *Norwich*, (where there is a great ado about a *Tacker*) and Diſcourſing with a Common-Council Man of that City, concerning the *Tackers*, the Common-Council Man Juſtify'd them to be the *Honeſteſt Men*, and Swore by his Maker, *That if they got the better of us this time they would* Tack *us all to the Devil*.

Obſ. That's a hard Sentence, and may aſſure us of their *Good Diſpoſition*, and how Neceſſary it is for us to provide againſt the Fate deſign'd us, by our Diligence in making a New Choice of Members, that will prevent the Miſchiefs purpos'd for us, by our Home Enemies; who, in Conjunction with thoſe Abroad intend no leſs a thing, than the intire Extirpation of our *Civil Rights*. For every one that has conſider'd the Poſture of the *French* Kings Affairs, muſt own that his chief Dependance has been on the *Tacking* Party in *England*, and that now he begins to halt on that Foot; nothing can ſerve the Intereſt of the Tyrant more than to have a Prevalent Faction on his Side in *England*, and if we are delivered from that Misfortune, 'tis owing to a *Trienial Parliament*, and we may thank God for it.

Country-m. I think that *Suffolk* County is a ſtrange Place, there are abundance of *Screwers* in that Country.

Obſ. Screwers! What new Word haſt got now?

Country-m. A good proper *Engliſh* Word. A *Screwer* is an Infernal *Church Officer*, that is Poſted at the *Screws* to heave up the Maſſy Weight of *Church Rituals* under pretence of Service to the *Church*.

Obſ. This is *Obſcurum per Obſcurius*. Prithee Explain thy ſelf.

Country-m. Maſter, you have no Docity in you: I'll make it plain. You know when the Folk do Launch a Ship they clap a Screw to her Tail, and by that means heave her out of the Dock into the Water, and ſo theſe *Screwers* would do by the Church of *England*, they would heave *Her* from *Her* Old Eſtabliſhment into the Sea of *Popery*.

Obſ. And you ſay there are a great many of theſe in *Suffolk*?

Country-m. Yes, a power of 'em, they love the *Papiſhes* at a woundy rate. For a while ago, when a *Topping Something*, with his *Gang*, went to ſearch a *Papiſts Houſe* for *Horſes* and *Arms*, he never look'd into the *Stable*, but coming into the *Parlour*, he ſaid, *Here are no* Horſes *or* Arms, and ſo ſat down and Drank with the *Papiſhes* till they were all Drunk, and I think 'twas on a Sunday too

Obſ. Why, theſe *Suffolk* Men are ſtrange People.

Country-m. Aye that they are, there is a Town in that Coun call'd *Tipſwich*, or ſome like Name. The People of the Tow met at their *Hall*, where one of the *Bayliffs* began a Health the Honeſt *Tackers*, which ſo diſguſted thoſe Honeſt Gentlem that were in the Company (who were Lovers of their Que and Country) that they all departed, and left the *Tackers* themſelves. I need not tell you that no Honeſt True-Heart *Engliſhman* is employ'd in the *Publick Offices* of the Town, th follows of Courſe; but juſt before the Riſing of the laſt Par ament, in Order to Support the *Tacking Cauſe*, the Bayliffs ma a certain Eminent *Tacker*, and Eighty other Country Gentlem Freemen of the ſaid *Corporation*. Now, Maſter, is this fair?

Obſ. I know 'tis foul enough. We are much at a loſs reſpect to our Antient Right of *Voting*; the *Commons* havi determined for their Principals the *Modus* of *Elections*, a *Committees* of *Elections* and *Priviledges* have been ſo very Par in their *Reſolves*, according to the *Predominacy* of a Faſhion the Houſe, that the *Electors* labour under *Uncertainties*, a know not at one *Election* what their *Modus* will be the next.

It is moſt Regular to proceed according to Ancient *Cuſtom Elections*, and I think if the *Commons* will have the *Uſage* a *Cuſtom* of Parliament to be the *Law* of Parliament, I think t *Uſage* and *Cuſtom* of *Elections* ſhould be the *Law* of *Elections* a Uncontroulable. But the *Commons* have often ſet aſide t *Uſage* and *Cuſtoms* of *Elections* in Times *Immemorial*. I kn that there is an Act for ſo doing, but as every Man, in his o Right, may Oppugn a *Law* that ſeems Grievous either to hi ſelf or the *Weal-Publick*, and may give his Reaſons for Repealing of ſuch a *Law*, ſo I may offer my Opinion in the Po

And *I* think the *Subſtitutes* ought not to Controul their *Pr cipals* in their Antient *Uſage* and *Cuſtoms* of *Elections*; for the Perſons *Repreſenting* ſhall controul the Perſons *Repreſent* in their *Elections*, that is, if they ſhall Nominate who ſhall the Perſons *Electing*, by the ſame Reaſon they may order w ſhall be the Perſons *Elected*, and thus *Tyranny* and *Oppreſ* would proceed in a Circle, and the *Delegated Power* would greater than that which gave them their Eſſence.

But, Honeſt *Country man*, to let you ſee the Deſigns of *Suffolk Tackers*, and their Affection to ſome Body, I muſt a quaint you, that a *Club* of thoſe *Sparks*, all of 'em *Tackers*, make a Rich Preſent of Wine to Marſhal *Tallard*, when worſt word they can invent is too good for the Duke *Marlborough*, who has purchas'd ſo much Honour to the *Engl* Nation.

Advertiſements.

A Certificate concerning *Stoughton*'s Cordial Elixir, which Pray READ.

THIS is to Certifie, that having uſed Mr. *Stoughtons* Cordi Elixir, found always great Benefit and Succeſs from it, a affirm, That when my Ship lay at *Jamaica*, a while ago, or ſeven of my Men fell ill with a great ſtoppage at the St mach, high Feaver, immediatly Light Headed, together with Vomitting and Looſeneſs, and moſt Died in 24 Hours; preſen after, ſix or ſeven more fell ill in the ſame manner, and th I Plyed them with the ſaid Elixir, and with the Bleſſing of G every one were ſpeedily Cured, and all the Men acknowled they owe their Lives to that Medicine, and I am of Opinion is of great uſe to be taken to Sea, it was in mighty Eſteem at *Jamaica* when I came away, and was Sold for 2*s*. 6*d*. Bottle. ——— This is *Verbatim*. Signed *Matthew Beeſly*, Cap of the *Bonadventure* Auguſt 17. 1703. The ſaid Captain is Man of Worth and Reputation, his Dwelling at Poplar, and whe en Shoar almoſt every Day at the Mairmaid-Tavern in Cornhi or Cock in Birchin-Lane, from whence any Gentleman may hav Satisfaction, he came Home from Barbadoes laſt, and declares was in as great Eſteem there, and could have Sold (would he ha ſpar'd it) at any Reaſonable Price. I do affirm it to be ſo at Ne England, and other parts of the Weſt-Indies, and believe it t beſt one Medicine in the World to carry to Sea; for thoſe Sc butick Feavers, Fluxes, Gripes, *&c*. proceeds from Infectious A Weakneſs of Stomach and Bowels, againſt which this is a m Noble Remedy, to be taken in a Dram of Brandy, Rum, Punch, as a Preſervative or Curative. It will keep good m Years, and alters not in any Climate, when once tryed few wo venture to Sea without it. The ſaid Captain hath juſt now take Quantity with him to Sea again, and ſeveral others very lately t goes with this Fleet, I have ſeveral more Certificates by me of wh great things it has done, too long to incert here, but any Bo may ſee them. They are 1*s*. the Bottle, Wholeſale Cheaper, wh is Sold by the Name of Garroways, near the Exchange, is not t right, but a Counterfeit; and all others that has not my Nam in a Cypher, and in Words at length on the Seal of every Bott and Bill with it. —— Prepared only by Richard Stoughton, Ap thecary, at the Unicorn in Southwark, and made Publick 14 Yea

THE Athenian Spy: Diſcovering the Secr Letters, which were ſent to the *Athenian Society*, by the m Ingenious Ladies of the Three Kingdoms, relating to the *Manag ment of their* Affections with their Anſwers; being a Curious Sy ſtem of *Love* Cafes, Platonick and Natural: Containing the *Pri ciples of* Love, according to Plato's Idea: And *The way of a Ma with a Maid*. Or, The *Whole Art of* Amour, in all its *Intrigu* and *Amuſements*, till its Conſummation in Enjoyment; with p vate Inſtructions to the Bride and Bridegroom, and a Mode Eſſay on due Benevolence, or the ſeaſonable uſe of the Marria Bed. An Invention for the helping off of old Maids, and a proje of an Office for the Unmarrying ſuch as are unequally Yoake With other Curious particulars, and great Variety of Poems, be an intire Collection of the *Love Secrets*, ſent to the *Athenian Soci* Price 2*s*. 6*d*. Printed for *R. Halſey*, and are to be Sold at t *Golden Pyramids* in the *Old Jury*, next the *Poultry*.

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